

PRESS RELEASE

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HEBER STUDENTS WIN COUNTY-WIDE ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS ADVANCE TO STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

IMPERIAL COUNTY – Heber Elementary School District students were recently recognized as winners of two countywide competitions hosted by the Imperial County Office of Education. In the Imperial County National History Day competition nine Heber students placed in the top-three of their categories; Five students will be advancing to the statewide competition in Sacramento. In the Migrant Speech and Debate competition seven Heber students earned awards for their work.

“The caliber of our student presentations and speeches shows that Heber students are being prepared well to become confident leaders and learners. I’ve long believed that Heber Schools are the Imperial Valley’s best-kept-secret and our students are the shining example of why, said Heber Elementary School District superintendent, Juan Cruz.

ICOE’s Curriculum and Instruction Department coordinates the academic student events, including the Imperial County National History Day competition. These events bring rich learning opportunities for students to experience and engage in while preparing for college and career readiness.

Heber’s winners in the National History Day competition included: Melanie Sandoval, Angelina Hensley, Kymani Hassan, Alessandra Miranda, Katie Gastelum, Sophia Nolasco, Gael Lopez, and Alexa Miranda Fino. Ana Victoria Nava was awarded best-over-all for her presentation of Athena, Goddess of Wisdom.

“I’m extremely proud of our students for the hard work they put in preparing their displays and their speeches. Students worked many hours to get ready for these competitions and it shows, said school board president Pompeyo Tabarez, Jr.

The Migrant Education Program at ICOE coordinates the annual speech and debate competition to provide a meaningful context for migrant students to strengthen their English language skills by applying and practicing key syntactic structures and vocabulary in in all areas of English language development.

Heber’s awardees for the speech and debate competition include: Vania Ramirez, Arlene Ochoa, Cristian Nogales, Elizabeth Castro, Cristyn Nogales, Edwin Flores and Vicka Ramirez.

Heber Elementary School principal Cynthia Silva commented, “I’m so proud of our students for their hard work preparing for these coemptions and I’m extremely thankful to our teachers and staff who worked with the students to get them ready.”

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